

OSC

OLC 78-3506/1

DEC 19 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT : 27th Annual National Prayer Breakfast

1. Action Requested: Recommend that you and Mrs. Turner attend subject breakfast.

2. Background: In a 17 November 1978 letter co-authored by Senator Lawton Chiles (D., Fla.) and Representative Richard T. Schultze (R., Pa.), you were advised of the upcoming subject breakfast which is scheduled for Thursday, 18 January 1978 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. at the Washington Hilton. Not only is the President and Mrs. Carter scheduled to attend, but also other high-level members of the Executive, Judicial and Legislative Branches. Since there is no conflict with your projected engagements, I suggest you respond positively for you and Mrs. Turner to the attached formal invitation which arrived here on 11 December 1978.


[Redacted Signature Box]

Frederick P. Hitz

STAT

Attachment:  
As Stated

APPROVED:

  
Director of Central Intelligence

DISAPPROVED:

Director of Central Intelligence

DATE: 20 DEC 1978

Distribution:

Orig - Addressee w/att

1 - DDCI w/att

1 - ER w/att

1 - OLC Subject w/att

1 - OLC Chron w/o/att

OLC:ABS:jms (14 Dec 1978)

*Each year the participation and interest in the National Prayer Breakfast has increased. Many have asked how the Breakfast is financed and we are attempting to answer that question with this note.*

*Each person who chooses to attend the National Leadership Seminar and Luncheon shares the overall cost of the Breakfast through a registration fee. Some who do not attend the Seminar and Luncheon also choose to make contributions. These funds help defray the expenses for our international guests who come from 80 to 100 countries, and assist with administrative costs.*

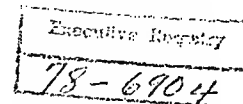
*There continues to be no charge for the Breakfast. You are the guests of the Congressional Prayer Breakfast groups. However, should you desire to contribute to the financial requirements, simply make a check payable to National Prayer Breakfast and return it with your response card. (This is a tax-deductible contribution.) Please be assured that this mention of finances is simply to provide information for those interested.*

The Prayer Breakfast Congressional Committee

BUDGET  
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING  
DEMOCRATIC STEERING COMMITTEE

United States Senate

November 17, 1978



OLC #78-3506

Admiral Stansfield Turner  
Director of Central Intelligence  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Admiral Turner:

As national and international tensions increase, reconciliation between individuals and nations seems more difficult. There is widespread longing for ways of finding unity. One effort that is being made toward this common desire is an annual event to which you and your spouse are to be invited.

For twenty-six years, the President, Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and other leaders from throughout the nation have met at an annual breakfast for prayer and discussion in the Name of the Living God of the Bible. This breakfast is scheduled close to the opening session of Congress and over the years has come to be referred to as the National Prayer Breakfast.

*How long*  
This year's National Prayer Breakfast will be held on Thursday, January 18, 1979 at 8:00 a.m. at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives Prayer Breakfast Committee will be inviting you to be their guests at this event. A formal invitation will be sent to you in the next few weeks.

We genuinely hope that you will be able to join us.

Sincerely,

RICHARD T. SCHULZE  
Member of Congress

LAWTON CHILES  
U.S. Senator

UNCLASSIFIED	CONFIDENTIAL	SECRET
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## EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT (O/DCI)

## Routing Slip

TO: *OLC*

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		✓	<i>w/o attachment</i>	
2	DDCI		✓	<i>w/o attachment</i>	
3	DD/RM				
4	DD/NFA				
5	DD/CT				
6	DD/A				
7	DD/O				
8	DD/S&T				
9	GC	✓			
10	LC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/PA				
14	D/EE0				
15	D/Pers				
16	AO/DCI				
17	C/IPS				
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					

SUSPENSE DATE: *30 NOV*

Remarks:

*To/IO - Develop DCI response.*

*D/Executive Secretary*  
*21 NOV 78*  
 Date

STAT

(Not printed at Government expense)

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 95<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

## The 26th Annual National Prayer Breakfast

SPEECH  
OF

HON. JAMES B. ALLEN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Friday, February 10, 1978

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. President, over 3,000 guests, including representative citizens from all 50 States and more than 100 other countries of the world, gathered at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C., on February 2, 1978, for the 26th National Prayer Breakfast.

This annual event, which is sponsored by the Senate and House prayer breakfast groups, marks a time for us to gather in a spirit of fellowship and reaffirm our mutual dependence on God. It is a public opportunity to demonstrate that we are a nation founded on spiritual principles and that our strength derives from our adherence to God's way.

Mr. President, I think many can benefit from the words of the several speakers at the National Prayer Breakfast as did those of us who were in attendance.

Accordingly, I ask unanimous consent that the program and transcript of the breakfast be printed in the RECORD, and I commend these remarks, and the spirit in which they were delivered to all.

There being no objection, the program and transcript were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

### 26TH ANNUAL NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST NATIONAL PRAYER BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Grace—The Honorable Frank Carlson, U.S. Senate (1950-1969).

Opening song, "How Great Thou Art" The Blackwood Quartet.

Presiding, the Honorable James B. Allen, National Prayer Breakfast Committee.

Opening prayer, the Honorable Thomas L. Judge, Governor of Montana.

Introduction of Head Table and Statement, the Honorable James Allen.

Greetings from the House of Representatives, the Honorable Berkley Bedell, U.S. House of Representatives.

Old Testament Reading, The Honorable John J. Sirica, Senior Judge, U.S. District Court, District of Columbia.

Greetings from the Senate, The Honorable Richard G. Lugar, U.S. Senate.

New Testament Reading, General Louis H. Wilson, Commandant of the United States Marine Corps.

Prayer for National Leaders, The Honorable Barbara Jordan, U.S. House of Representatives.

Song, "Learning to Lean" The Blackwood Quartet.

Message, The Honorable Max Cleland, Administrator of Veterans Affairs.

The President of the United States.

Closing Prayer, The Honorable Harold E. Hughes, U.S. Senate (1969-1975).

Closing Song, "The Lord's Prayer".

Presiding: The Honorable James B. Allen.  
Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the 26th annual National Prayer Breakfast, held in the Nation's Capital.

We are grateful to the Blackwood Quartet for being on our program and giving us an opportunity to enjoy their wonderful and inspirational singing.

Mayor Tom Bradley, of Los Angeles, was scheduled to give our opening prayer, but unfortunately he fell victim to some of the rare inclement weather in Los Angeles, and came down with the flu. However, Governor Thomas L. Judge, of Montana, has graciously agreed to give us the opening prayer, and we call on him at this time.

Opening prayer: The Honorable Thomas L. Judge.

Almighty God, our Father, we offer our thanks to You for what You are in Yourself and for what You have done for the world. Above all, we thank You for the gift of life, and the opportunity to serve You. You call us not to be served, or lord over others. Our greatness is to be exercised in service. We thank you for this work.

Help us to understand and sympathize with human weakness. Satisfy our hunger for the truth. Strengthen us to struggle against injustice and evil. Father, may your spirit help us to play our part in upholding, in our society, wise government and authority based on consent. Give us the sense to discover and accept the uses and limitations of organized protest. Drive us into politics to help others, particularly those who cannot help themselves, but let it be with patience and real commitment.

We pray for all in public life in our country. We pray for the President and the First Lady. Show them the proper place of ambition and desire for power, so that these things do not make them incapable of genuine service. May all who decide the destinies of men and women they never meet remember that they are dealing with human beings. May those who control industry and commerce be concerned to increase not only financial gain but also the general benefit of more and more people.

We pray for all who live under tyrannical regimes where government is synonymous with oppression. We do not know what to ask for them, but as they search their hearts to learn what they must do, may they at least have evidence from us and others that liberty is not always turned to a mockery by those who possess it.

We pray for men and women in the task of governing their own lives, for all with unruly tempers or desires, for those whom they harm, and for those who have to de-

cide what is to be done with them. May realism and compassion go hand in hand, never leaving one another in the lurch, and may all who have broken and gone adrift have Your love. Refit them for life's voyage and give them new bearings.

Help us to understand that we can do all these things through Jesus Christ who strengthens us. Father, in all these things it matters greatly who is at the helm. Help us now to put the direction of our lives into Your hands. In the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Opening statement: The Honorable James Allen.

Welcome, again, to the National Prayer Breakfast, which is held in the spirit of Jesus Christ, and which through the years has become a treasured institution for all of those who have come within its influence.

I'm Jim Allen, United States Senator from Alabama, and a member of the Senate prayer breakfast group. There are some 3,000 persons in this hall, and in adjoining rooms. There are representatives from all 50 states and from 100 foreign countries. Some 100,000 service personnel will hear this program on Armed Forces Radio. We're grateful to all of those who are participating in the program. We're grateful to all of you who have honored us with your presence here today. In just a moment I will introduce the head table guests. We are indeed honored that the President and First Lady have again honored us with their presence for this occasion. I'm going to introduce the head table in the order of their appearance on the program. I ask that all of you hold your applause until the First Lady has been presented. The President will not be presented until his place on the program has been reached.

The Honorable Thomas L. Judge, Governor of Montana who gave the invocation. The Honorable Berkley Bedell, and Mrs. Bedell. The Honorable John J. Sirica, Senior Judge, U.S. District Court, and his lovely daughter Eileen. The Honorable Richard J. Lugar, U.S. Senator from Indiana, and Mrs. Lugar, General Louis H. Wilson, Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, and Mrs. Wilson. The truly admirable, the Honorable Barbara Jordan, U.S. Representative from Texas. The unsinkable, the Honorable Max Cleland, Administrator of Veterans Affairs. Our long-time good friend, the Honorable

Harold E. Hughes, U.S. Senator (1969-1975). My own wonderful wife, Maryon. Now it is my honor and my privilege and pleasure to present our lovely, gracious, and greatly beloved First Lady, Mrs. Rosalynn Carter.

It was Alexis de Tocqueville, 140 years ago, who wrote that America is great because America is good, but that if America ceases to be good, it will cease to be great. How true we feel this is. But 2,000 years before de Tocqueville wrote this, it was written in God's Holy Word that righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. How often was this great truth illustrated in the history of the Jewish nation? When they served God they grew strong and prospered as a nation. When they departed from God, they grew weak, and fell prey to their enemies.

Will not a like rule apply to America? Will we profit from the lessons of history, or will we as a nation repeat the mistakes of the past? Has America lost some of its greatness because it may have lost some of its goodness? We need God's help and guidance if we are to retain the goodness that makes for greatness.

To this end this Prayer Breakfast is held. The Prayer Breakfast puts us in communion with our heavenly Father, and in touch with that great reservoir of spiritual strength that is available to all those who call on God in prayer. It strengthens us in our faith, in our love of Christ, and in our efforts for good. It uplifts us in our outlook and in our vision. It inspires us to a closer walk with God. It affords us an opportunity to pray for guidance, and to thank God for the blessings that He has showered upon us.

I am sure that all of us present this morning are convinced that without God's help we will never have world peace. We will never solve our many problems as a nation and as a world. Will prayer help? James says that "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." If that be true, and we know that it is, how much more would the prayers of all those present today avail?

Suppose all Americans—suppose all peoples everywhere lifted their minds and hearts in prayer to God for help and guidance. Would that help? Surely it would. You know, it is an element of God's omnipotence that millions can pray to God simultaneously and all have direct, personal communion with

Him. No busy signals, no overcrowded circuits or switchboards. No, rather a straight line to God. Who could ask for more?

But God is not going to do it all. We've got to do our part. God uses our hands, our minds, our hearts, our planning and our efforts. The President, in his State of the Union address, aptly said that government cannot do it all. Certainly it cannot. But the people, acting with patriotism and dedication, hard work, sacrifice, determination and prayer, can through their government and with God's help and guidance do it all.

GREETINGS FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: THE HONORABLE BERKLEY BEDELL

Praise the Lord! I bring you greetings from the House of Representatives prayer group. Three short years ago, after my first arrival in the Congress, I started attending the weekly House of Representatives prayer breakfast. I soon came to realize how important these breakfasts were, not only to me personally, but indeed to our total government. I fear that we in Congress are so busy arguing issues that if it were not for our prayer breakfasts, almost no time would be spent examining our values and our beliefs.

Let me tell you a little about our weekly House prayer breakfast. We meet at 8:00 every Thursday morning. After breakfast and an opening prayer, we have a short talk by a different member of the House. Usually the member tells us a little bit about his or her life, his religious beliefs, and the talk is followed by discussion of some of the questions raised, and a closing prayer by one of the members.

These are quite personal and frequently very moving meetings. Sincerity and candor are the rule as we try to better understand each other in our philosophical and religious beliefs. It is a thrill for me up here as I look out across the crowd and see those people who have participated in this weekly prayer breakfast.

Two of Christ's teachings speak especially loudly to me. He said, "Love your neighbor as yourself," and He said, "You cannot serve God and mammon." For a long time I didn't understand that second statement. I thought it simply meant that you couldn't have two masters. Then, in Sunday School, somebody explained to me that mammon was wealth.

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I realized that He was saying that you cannot worship wealth and God at the same time. It seems to me pretty clear that Christ was saying that we should set aside our selfish worship of material wealth. We should worship God, and we should love and care for one another. To do so, I believe, would solve more problems than all the laws enacted by all the legislative bodies of the world.

That's why I believe our Congressional prayer breakfast is important. I think it is a shining light for all the world, and I am thankful that you would come from all across the world to join with us this morning in this prayer breakfast.

There are those in Congress who question this National Prayer Breakfast and their questioning is not without justification. For we read in Matthew that Christ admonished us, "and when you pray, you are not to pray as the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners in order to be seen by men. Truly I say to you, they have their reward in full. But when you pray, go into your inner room, and when you have shut the door, pray to your Father."

This morning's breakfast can only be worth the time if we value it not for the excitement of the crowd, or the fame of the occasion, but for the opportunity it gives each of us to strengthen our own faith, and to help one another to be a little closer to his God. May this morning be a period of spiritual renewal, where the presence of the Holy Spirit is more important than the presence of governmental dignitaries or the press corps. May this morning be a supplement to, rather than a replacement for our inner room prayers.

I don't know how you people feel, but when we all sang together "How Great Thou Art" I felt that the Holy Spirit was here with us today. Lest we be carried away by our numbers, remember that Christ had only twelve apostles, and He told us that we could move mountains if we only had the faith. My prayer this morning is that each of you here will leave with that faith, that together we may work to build God's world here on this 20th century spaceship Earth—a world of peace, of love, of caring, of sharing, and of praying in our inner rooms.

May God bless you all. May He give you

the strength and the guidance to better serve Him and your fellow human beings.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: THE HONORABLE  
JOHN J. SIRICA

Mr. President, Mrs. Carter, Senator Allen, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. This morning the young people of this nation are very much on my mind. The Bible passage which I will read from the book of Proverbs is the advice and counsel of Solomon, the son of David, the King of Israel, to a young man. In his exhortation he is pointing the young man toward the way of the Lord and toward those basic laws of life which abide forever.

There was an incident that occurred during the Watergate trials that I would like to relate to you. Naturally, during that time, as at any other time, a judge's schedule is quite heavy. However, during a recess, we had a break for half an hour or an hour.

My secretary came into the office and said, "Judge, there is a young man outside, about 18 years old. He just came in off the street. He's a tourist here, goes to college in Staten Island, and would like to visit with you." Well, I used to enjoy—I still enjoy—talking to hundreds of youths from all over the country, so I said, "Show him in."

He came in, looked me right in the eye, and said, "Judge, are all politicians crooked?" Just like that! I was somewhat taken aback, for a second or so. I said, "What's going to happen to our nation, our great nation, if young people like you take that position? Of course not all politicians are dishonest."

Then I said to him, "What is your definition of a politician?" He stumbled around, and I saw he was having a little difficulty, so I said "Let me give you what I think is a good, simple definition of a politician." I said, "Many years ago I had a wonderful friend by the name of Senator Everett Dirksen, of Illinois. He was making a speech, and I heard him give the definition of a politician. He said, 'I believe that a politician is a man or a woman skilled in the art and science of government.'" I said to him, "I think that's a pretty good, simple definition that anybody could understand." After about one-half hour the young man went away and maybe I converted some of his ideas.

There were millions of youngsters in those days, and of the older generation also, during

that trying and sad experience of the Water-gate trials, that were having doubts about many things. But I believe that as a result of what has happened we have turned out to be a much stronger, more united, and a greater nation. The young people of America and the older generation certainly do have confidence in their government. I believe that both the federal government and our state governments are honest and dedicated men and women, and that occasionally, if some of them do something that they should not do, that doesn't mean that everybody of that class is dishonest.

If the youth of our country lose their trust in their government—and there are many and maybe millions who have suffered from that delusion—the resulting distrust will mean the erosion of our nation. It is the principal responsibility of those of us who hold positions of trust to so conduct our lives that the young people who observe us will be more sensitive to the teachings of God and the needs of their fellow men. It is important that we of the older generation recommit ourselves to being the kind of people who will lay the right foundation for our children.

Let's stop talking so much at them, and rather listen, learn, and keep up to date, and also be living examples that they will never be ashamed of.

I will now read from Proverbs, chapter 3, verses 1-12.

"My son, forget not my teaching. Keep in mind my commands, for many days and years of life and peace will they bring you. Let not kindness and fidelity leave you. Bind them around your neck. Then will you win favor and good esteem before God and man.

"Trust in the Lord, with all your heart, and on your own intelligence rely not. In all your ways be mindful of Him and He will make straight your path.

"Be not wise in your own eyes. Fear the Lord and turn away from evil. This will mean health for your flesh and vigor for your bones. Honor the Lord with your wealth, with first fruits of all your products. Then will your barns be filled with grain, with new wine your vats will overflow.

"The discipline of the Lord, my son, disdain not. Spurn not His reproof. For whom the Lord loves, He reproves, and He chastises the son He favors."

This chapter, Proverbs 3, I commend to you for your reading, especially the fifth and sixth verses centering upon trusting God in all your ways. Thank you for your kind attention.

GREETINGS FROM THE SENATE: THE HONORABLE  
RICHARD G. LUGAR

Mr. President, Mrs. Carter, Senator Allen, dear friends. The United States Senate prayer breakfast group opens each Wednesday morning meeting with an opening prayer and a thoughtful message delivered by one of our members. We literally stop and concentrate and, with our hearts and minds open to God, we believe strongly that He is near us. We are awed and comforted by His presence. We can still hear crowds of people entering the United States Capitol as we meet, in a small room just off the major corridor. We know that in just a few minutes we will be asked to speak out on sometimes deeply controversial and potentially divisive issues in this country. The strength of our prayer groups compels us, at least for a moment, to consider first ultimate responsibility and eternity.

Our ages span three generations. Each of us has enjoyed, in his own way, many victories in the affairs of this world, and a substantial measure of heartache and personal loss. As we truly open up to God and we reveal how vulnerable each one of us is, we have learned to love one another in a way which is unusual, I believe, for people in the sometimes competitive and contentious world of politics.

Each of our circle has come to know how hard we strive to be good husbands, to be good fathers, and how far we fall short. We have recounted the many times when our children were hurt or in trouble, and we were hundreds of miles away discharging public duties, but of very little support to wives who bore the brunt of shock and anxiety. We share with each other the disturbing list of missed family meals, of broken family plans and postponed family celebrations, which, while we were doing the public business, meant some distress and some strain for our marriages, for caring for our children, for our parents. We are mindful of these shortcomings.

We have prayed aloud especially for members of our prayer group who have been afflicted by cancer or other grievous afflic-

tions. We are reminded again and again of how fragile we are, and how dependent we are on the understanding of family members, and of loyal friends, and upon a bedrock of faith in God, who sent us His beloved Son, that we might believe on Him.

We go forth each Wednesday morning with the strength that comes unfailingly to those who are willing and able to acknowledge that God truly knows all, and that we are responsible so long as we live to learn to love and to serve others with greater wisdom and compassion.

We are renewed with new vigor to explore the ways in which the United States Senate can make a difference in helping to focus our national community's desire to help those among us who still need jobs, housing, better opportunities for health care, greater certainty of justice in this country, a better diet and the opportunity to work and to enjoy raising children in a world which is at peace because we were wise enough to work to forge policies which best assured that peace.

I bring you greetings from the United States Senate prayer breakfast group, with our own prayer that each one of us today finds words and ways in which to be more open to God and with one another. Our prayers will truly help us, if we will allow them, to grow to think much more about the needs of others and to find new joy in our own service.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: GENERAL LOUIS H. WILSON

Mr. President, Mrs. Carter, Senator Allen, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. This morning we are continuing a custom which our Lord began when He had breakfast with His disciples. I believe His message to us today is the same as that given to them, namely, "Feed my sheep," and "Follow Me." Here begins the New Testament reading from the gospel of John, chapter 21, verses 4-17 and 20-22.

"Morning came, and there stood Jesus on the beach. But the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

"He called out to them, 'Friends, have you caught anything?' They answered, 'No.'"

"He said, 'Shoot the net to starboard and you will make a catch.' They did so, and

found that they could not haul the net aboard, there were so many fish in it.

"Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord,' 'It is the Lord.' When Simon Peter heard that, he wrapped his coat about him (for he had stripped) and plunged into the sea.

"The rest of them came on in the boat, towing the net full of fish for they were not far from land, only about 100 yards.

"When they came ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there with fish on it and some bread.

"Jesus said, 'Bring some of your catch.'

"Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to land, full of big fish, 153 of them. And yet, as many as there were, the net was not torn.

"Jesus said, 'Come and have breakfast.' None of the disciples dared to ask, 'Who are you?' They knew it was the Lord.

"Then Jesus came up, took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish in the same way.

"This makes the third time that Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection from the dead.

"After breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than all else?' 'Yes, Lord,' He said.

"A second time He asked 'Simon, son of John do you love Me?' 'Yes, Lord, You know that I love You.' 'Then, tend My sheep.'

"A third time He said, 'Simon, son of John, do you love Me?' Peter was hurt that He asked him a third time, 'Do you love Me?' 'Lord,' he said, 'You know everything. You know I love You.' Jesus said, 'Feed My sheep.'

"Peter looked around and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, the one who at supper had leaned back close to Him to ask the question, 'Lord, who is it that will betray You?'

"When he caught sight of Him, Peter asked, 'Lord, what will happen to him?'

"Jesus said, 'If it should be My will that he wait till I come, what is that to you? Follow Me.' Here ends the lesson.

PRAYER FOR NATIONAL LEADERS: THE HONORABLE BARBARA JORDAN

Let us bow our heads, close our eyes, and open our hearts to the One who is greater than we are. We are so human and so inadequate to the task which is ours, to serve as

Your trustees for the benefit of Your people. Help us to be mindful that we are not alone. When we need wisdom, we need only to ask for it. You have promised to bestow it liberally. When we're weak, if we're just patient, You will renew our strength. Strengthen us.

Lord, You know we are so ordinary. We find it difficult to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we know that if we fail to love, we fail not only our neighbors, but we fail You. When we succumb to hatred, greed and self-centeredness we give You cause to revoke the trust You have placed in us. We beseech You to move so powerfully within us that we shall be able to avert sinfulness.

We do not serve as well as we might serve when we follow our own counsel rather than Yours. Help us to trust in You, rather than rely totally on ourselves. Teach us to know that if we are to be successful stewards, we must be Your servants.

We know that we cannot solve the many difficulties which beset Your people, but You can. We cannot reconcile people whose prejudice and narrow-sighted self-interest prevent brotherhood, but You can. We cannot infuse hope in those who despair, but You can.

Since You can do all that we cannot do, give us the good sense to work with You in partnership for the benefit of all humankind. Help us to resist our inclination to be the senior partner, and outdo You.

As we work together, keep talking to us and help us to listen. Guide us in our decisions, and grant us the wisdom, courage and selflessness to discern the difference between good and bad, fact and fiction, reality and illusion. Guide us. Amen.

MESSAGE: THE HONORABLE MAX CLELAND

When I was asked to speak this morning, I felt a little like that young man in his second week of basic training. He went in to his platoon sergeant and said, "Sergeant, I want to volunteer. I want to go to Vietnam. I want to fight. I want to win me some medals. Then I want to come home." The old sergeant looked at him just a minute and said, "I'm gonna send you to the company commander."

The young man reported into the orderly room right on time, saluted and said, "Sir, I want to volunteer. I want to go to Vietnam. I want to fight. I want to win me some medals. Then I want to come home." The company commander thought just a minute

and said, "I'm gonna send you to the battalion psychiatrist."

The young man reported—starched fatigues, spit-shined boots—saluted briskly and said, "Sir, I want to volunteer. I want to go to Vietnam. I want to fight. I want to win me some medals. Then I want to come home." The psychiatrist thought just a minute and said, "I think you're crazy." The young man said, "Write it down, write it down."

When my secretary heard that I had accepted an invitation to speak at the National Prayer Breakfast, she said, "You're crazy." And I said, "Write it down, write it down."

Let me say that, speaking for myself, and I think I speak for many of you, I make no pretense of personal perfection in being here today. I think I can truthfully say, in the words of Paul to the small church at Corinth, that "by the grace of God I am what I am." First of all, He saved my life. I have not always believed that He did the right thing. I feel like that fellow who called up the 24-hour action line on suicide emergencies, and they put him on "Hold". Then they came back and said, "We've talked it over and we think you're doing the right thing."

I've not always felt that, in saving my life after a five-hour operation on the border of the South China Sea, following a grenade explosion on the Laotian border in Vietnam in 1968, the good Lord did the right thing. I will say to you that it took me more than one year to get to the point that I would see the sun rise and be glad to see it. Somehow, by the grace of God, my physical presence was maintained on this earth. All I had to do was figure out why.

I had been interested in politics before I went to Vietnam. I had a little touch of Potomac fever. I went back to Georgia, and that translated into Chattahoochee fever. If you're gonna get the fever, it doesn't matter where you are! So I ran for the State Senate. It happened to be the very first time that I met a young man, in shirt sleeves on a hot, summer day, with a very intriguing smile. He won, and I won, and we went to state government together. You might say it was an honor to follow his leadership.

But, quite frankly, I had let politics get too close to me. It was the one thing that I

thought I could do with my life after I was injured in Vietnam. It was a purpose, it was a fulfillment, it was a meaning—of a sort. And it was certainly a job, a job that I loved. But, in many ways, it was also a crutch. I enjoyed being in the State Senate for a while. But no crutch that is intended to be something else can ever be used for a crutch for very long.

I quickly found that being a member of the Georgia State Senate was not enough. My ego, as egos are wont to be, was insatiable. All of a sudden it dawned on me that what the state of Georgia really needed was me as Lieutenant Governor.

The great thing about followers of Christ being in politics is that society has a built-in safeguard against it. That happens to be that, for those of us who are stricken with the fever, and also hell-bent on winning, that kind of insight is always subject to confirmation in this country by 51% of the vote. Unfortunately, I didn't get that, and it was quite shocking to me that the rest of the good folks in Georgia didn't understand.

In 1974, I was a young man on the way up who was suddenly a young man on the way down. And I did not fully understand why. You would think that if you were blown apart in Vietnam, spent 18 months in and out of military and VA hospitals, and went through a long rehabilitation process, that somewhere along the line you would realize that your life was not fully determined by you, and the good Lord was trying to tell you something. You would understand that. I didn't.

But, once I was taken away from not only what I was interested in doing, but the last holdout that I had to cling to, I came to the end of my rope. I had to ultimately confront myself, my fellow man and my God.

Now, I had always had faith in God. I had the kind of faith where you trust everybody, but you cut the cards. I did trust everybody, but I held the cards close to my chest. As an only child, self-sufficiency came very naturally to me, except when I got beat. Then I had no one else to blame.

All of a sudden, my young life that was on the upswing, wasn't. I thought I had been saved in Vietnam for a specific purpose, namely, Georgia politics (some of you might

not get too excited about that, but I really was). Now I had to figure out who I was and where I was going. For me, that was a new experience.

It is an awesome thing to contemplate one's own limits and one's own humanity, and realize that you have not done as good a job with your life as you thought you had. I began, for the first time in my life, to understand humility. I had always been self-sufficient. I had always been the captain of my soul and the master of my fate, but I had to face the fact that I had taken control of my life and had run it right into the ground. That was not part of my plan.

I ended up financially in debt, unemployed, and with no one knocking on the door. I was in debt not only financially, but was in debt personally. I was in debt because I had allowed my ego and my self-centeredness to override the deeper sensibilities of my own heart. I had not paid attention to my inner self. I had not understood that God creates us as limited human beings so that we may seek Him for His fullness and His guidance. All along, in trusting and holding the cards, I never trusted at all.

Faith can be quite terrifying, because when you turn your life over to somebody else, you're not sure what they're going to do with it. Yet, I understood what I had done with it. On a dark night, driving to Washington where I was offered the only job that came my way, about two or three years ago, I called out in the darkness and said, "God, forgive me." I had never done that before, because I had always been sufficient to meet every need. But I was not sufficient at that point.

For the first time I understood that God is a power greater than ourselves, and in taking that leap of faith, that's exactly what He wants us to realize. Our life begins there and doesn't end there. That's why, for a Christian, defeat is, in a sense, the beginning. People don't understand that, but Paul, 2,000 years ago, talked about God's strength being perfected in our own weakness.

When I was a child I used to hear the verse, "when our trophies we lay down." Of course, that just communicated to me that I was supposed to win all the trophies. I was supposed to win all the medals. I was supposed to win. Then I'd lay them down and He'd pat me on the head—but, no, that's not the

way it works. We can't win without Him, but only through Him. When we are in that spirit, that we come to through asking His help and forgiveness, letting go, and letting Him have the confusion and brokenness in our lives, then He takes over, and victory, from that moment, is part of our lives.

On a professional level, I thought I was out of politics. Certainly I was out of Georgia politics, I was 600 miles away from Georgia. I thought that I was abandoning my field, but if it took that for me to have peace in my heart, I would do it, because at that point I didn't care about politics. I didn't care about anything else. I wanted the peace of mind that came from getting right with my God.

You see, He has a plan. Where my plan ended, His picked up. He also had a plan for some others in this room. Little did I know, but I was not getting away from either Georgia politics or national politics. I was part of the advance party of all the Georgians coming to Washington.

Let me just say this: I thank God for my President, I thank God for his personal example. It helps me to do my task, which I dearly love. Even more than that, I know that there is at least one other, and many others in this town, who understand what it means to be personally defeated, and to be able through the grace of God to come back and achieve victories that were, in the former life, impossible.

Ernest Hemingway once said that "life breaks us all". That is true, life breaks us all. But afterwards he said, "many are strong in the broken places". I now understand the kind of strength that could enable a Peter or Paul or others to have lived their lives and seen their own will lead virtually to their own destruction, and yet, by God's grace, have a turn-around, and come back to be a different person, and to be better for themselves and for others, under God's leadership, than they would ever have been under their own.

I'll just leave with you a thought that expresses it all. It's the prayer of an unknown Confederate soldier, and it was given to me by a POW out of Vietnam, who spent seven years in Hanoi. I heard him read it one day, and I said, "Please give me a copy", and he did. It is a prayer that I think conveys the essence of what I've been trying to say.

"I asked God for strength, that I might achieve. I was given weakness, that I might learn humbly to obey. I asked for health, that I might do greater things. I was given infirmity, that I might do better things. I asked for riches, that I might be happy. I was given poverty that I might be wise. I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men. I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God. I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life. I was given life, that I might enjoy all things.

"I got nothing that I asked for, but everything I had hoped for. Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered. I am, among all men, most richly blessed." Thank you very much. [Standing applause.]

Senator ALLEN. Max, we've all been truly and richly blessed by that wonderful message. Inspiring as it was, your life is even more inspirational.

Many of us in this room make public speeches from time to time and we are presented to our audiences. Sometimes we feel that the introduction is not glowing enough, but I wonder why we should be dissatisfied or why we should complain, when the person who occupies the greatest and the most important governmental position in the world, is presented merely as the President of the United States.

#### REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT

You may have noticed that the chairman of this breakfast and master of ceremonies is Senator Jim Allen of Alabama. You may have noticed that our main speaker is Max Cleland from Georgia. You may have noticed that the President is Jimmy Carter from the same state. There may be some concern among you about the secret to the South's growing influence. I might point out one coincidental piece of evidence, in that the very fine Blackwood Quartet has six members in it. I think that up North the quartets still have four members.

It has been a wonderful program, and it is almost anti-climactic for anyone to try to follow Max Cleland who, in his own life and in his own words, gives us a testimony of what true faith can be, and what the closeness of God means to us.

To me, God is real. To me, the relationship with God is a very personal thing. God is ever present in my life. He sustains me when I am weak, gives me guidance when

I turn to Him, and provides for me, as a Christian, through the life of Christ, a perfect example to emulate in my experiences with other human beings. My wife and I worship together every night. Often during the day I turn to God in a quiet and personal way.

A few months back the words "born again" were vividly impressed on the consciousness of many Americans who were not familiar with their meaning. They've been used in many headlines and on the front covers of many magazines. But for those of us who share the Christian faith the words "born again" have a very simple meaning. Through a personal experience, we recommend our lives as humble children of God, which makes us, in the most real possible sense, brothers and sisters of one another.

Families are bound by the closest possible ties. I noticed in a small news article this morning that I was chosen "Lover of the Year". It concerned me very much until I read on and found that it was because my wife and I have been in love for more than 31 years, and that the exemplification of a close family life is the best expression of love.

But, for a member of Congress, for a governor, for an executive officer who care for hundreds of thousands of veterans of war, for the commanding general of the United States Marines, for foreign dignitaries and for a President, the word "family" has a broader meaning. It is the family of all human beings, and challenges us to alleviate world tensions, hatred, misunderstandings, suffering, loneliness and alienation through a common understanding and a common purpose and, sometimes, even a common belief.

A few weeks ago I was in India. As part of my preparation for meeting with Indian leaders I read the Bhagavad Gita. I later visited the site where Mahatma Gaudhi's body was cremated, and thought about his simple, deeply committed life, his knowledge of Christianity and Judaism, his worship of God and the simplicity, humility and sensitivity of his life. I felt a kinship with him and a kinship with the Indian leaders, who have not always been our friends in recent years. As I talked with Prime Minister Desai this was a common thread that ran through the conversations between us, that we shared something.

Last year, at a relatively small supper at the White House, Crown Prince Fahd from Saudi Arabia was asked a question by a member of Congress as to how Saudi Arabia, with its tremendous growing wealth, will deal with the needs of its own people and hold together as a community. He gave one of the most eloquent impromptu speeches I've ever heard, about how a common religious faith and the responsibility to hold together the interest in the holy places of Islam gave him confidence in the future and guidance on how his own life should be expended in the service of others.

I met with Prime Minister Begin twice during the past year, and hope to see him again soon when he comes to our country. I like him. I admire him and respect him because, throughout his conversations with me in the quiet, lonely, private times together, and even when he talks with others in a larger group, there is the fervor of a deeply committed religious man who, again, worships the same God I do and you do.

I felt an instant friendship with President Sadat. In his messages to me, and in my talks with him, he never fails to point out that the Egyptians and the Jews are the sons of Abraham, worship the same God, share a common heritage and a common faith. He reminds me that this is a transcendent thing, quite often forgotten, but still there. It doesn't change.

In our search for peace and goodwill, in spite of setbacks and criticisms and sometimes the undertaking of tasks that are not easily performed. I have a sense of confidence that if we emphasize and reinforce those ties of mutual faith, our subservience and humility before God, and our acquiescence in His deeply-sought guidance, we can prevail.

The leaders of our nation look with a great deal of concern over the past experiences when kings and princesses had tied themselves to God, to the Church, sometimes even in an exalted position relative to God, and had cloaked maladministration and injustice in the protection of the Church. So, in our Constitution we carefully prescribe that there should be no establishment of religion in this country. We worship freely. But that does not mean that leaders of our nation and the people of our nation are not called upon to worship, because those who wrote the



Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights in our Constitution did it under the aegis of, the guidance of, and with a full belief in God.

In our rapidly changing world we need to cling to things that don't change, to truth and justice, to fairness, to brotherhood, to love and to faith. Through prayer I believe we can find these things. I don't think that is overly optimistic.

When Judge Sirica, one of the great men of all times in our country, referred to Solomon, I thought about the time described in the First Book of Kings when God said to Solomon, "What do you want from Me?" Solomon said, "Give Thy servant an understanding mind to govern Your people, that I might discern between good and evil." God said, "That is such a fine prayer that I will not only grant you wisdom, but I'll grant you the other blessings of life as well."

Almost everyone in this room is a leader, trusted by others, looked up to by others, respected by others, influential among others. I pray that that doesn't give us a sense of pride or exaltation or a sense of self-satisfaction, but that it gives us a sense of humility, and that we turn to God through prayer so that we might better serve those who have placed their faith in us, as we've placed our faith in God. (Standing applause)

Senator ALLEN. Thank you, Mr. President, for that inspiring message. I'm sure that I speak the sentiments of every person here when I say that we are proud that the head of our government and our First Lady are devout and sincere servants of God.

This has been a wonderful occasion. Laying aside the role of the person presiding, I believe that this is the finest breakfast that we've had during the last ten years that I had the privilege of attending.

At this time, Harold, if you will come forward.

CLOSING PRAYER—THE HONORABLE HAROLD E. HUGHES

Mr. President, Mrs. Carter, Jim, distinguished guests and ladies and gentleman. We're here with a singular purpose, to unite our hearts in prayer. I'd like for all of you, just for this first minute to prepare yourselves for prayer. It's easy in the midst of such a congregation, with so many friends and brothers and sisters about, to be involved in

the worldly things. But right now, in one final, united effort of spirit and heart, we are about to lift our minds, our hearts, our hopes, our dreams, our exhortations and our intercessions to God Almighty. Please do not take these two or three moments lightly.

I'm going to ask, as I have in preceding years, that you join hands around your own table. I wish you would join together in a circle of prayer at your own table. Lift up your hearts if you can for a moment quietly. Then those at each table who feel led to pray, pray out loud, lifting your prayers, your intercessions, whatever it be, to God Almighty.

As the Holy Spirit moves me, I will intercede and close with prayer for this nation, its people, the President and all those governing, and for the world itself, that there might be peace and tranquility because the men and women leading this world are joined together in the hope of God for peace on earth. Let us join together. . . .

Almighty Father, we join now in unity of spirit and heart, lifting up to You this nation and its people. Father, we ask that You would call us to be an obedient people to Your commands, that we might truly see the necessity of obeying the commandments that You have given us, and that as children we would kneel and submit to your authority as God of all creation.

We thank you, Father, that in the freedom You have given us, we can join together as a nation, with its elected representatives, the President and First Lady of the United States, the members of the Congress of the United States, the Executive Branch of the United States, the Judiciary of the United States and the people of the United States, thanking You for freedom, tranquility and peace. We pray, Almighty God, that You will give each of us direction as we go forth this coming year for the decisions that lie before us, that we might, as our President prayed, be granted the wisdom that You gave to Solomon. In all of the problems that exist in this world today, let us know with a sureness the power of the Holy Spirit in the process of decision-making, and that He can be the director of our lives individually, and of our nation collectively.

We pray for the leadership, this morning, of all nations in creation because we know



by the Scripture that Thou hast raised up this leadership. Whether we are in agreement or disagreement, we have before us an opportunity that, through Your divine guidance, we can find the peaceful directions for tranquility of all the peoples on the Earth.

We lift up those who are hungry today, Lord, because we have been blessed mightily with food, and with sustenance for our bodies. We pray, oh God, that this very sustenance can give us a compassion and a concern for those who have not in our world today.

We pray for those who find themselves not in peace but in war, that You may grant, oh God, that peace to come that will assure them that they will know the final peace of all, the peace that can only be given by You.

Father, we're especially concerned this morning for those with whom we find ourselves in confrontation because we are exhorted by Scripture to pray for those who are our enemies and to pray for those with whom we differ. We ask You, God, to grant them wisdom as they represent their people, to grant them the intention of heart to seek peace in this world in our time. Lord, we ask you especially to penetrate their heart with the final and ultimate obedience that can come only from God in relationship to their individual lives.

Lord, I join with the rest in lifting a special prayer to You of intercession for our

President, his wife, and his family. I pray, oh God, that You will never leave him one moment in indecision that Thou art with him. I pray for our First Lady that she can be the sustaining support of their family, that their love, one for another, can be an example, not just for the families of this country, but of the world.

May we realize the value of the holy institution of marriage, and the structure of family which you have granted us. I pray that we can, in our individual relationships, one with another, husbands and wives, parents and children, let Thy glory be seen before the world because we love one another in our family, as well as the family of Christ, in which You have brought us together.

Now God, as we go forth, I pray that You will grant all safe travel as they return to their countries and their homes from which they came. I pray that you will inspire them in the power of the Spirit, that in unity where they go they can see Thy word and Thy truth in all things. Grant us that peace, God, which You promised, of heart and of truth, to know and to understand.

I thank You, Father, for all those who have spoken this morning, all those who have undergirded in prayer, and all those who, at this moment, wait and pray and intercede constantly, that Thy glory might truly be seen.

Thank You, Father, for this precious opportunity of freedom, and of peace that You have given us. In the Name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.